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PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

1,192,431

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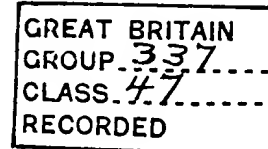
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements relating to Plant Display Troughs

We, JOHN REGINALD RAYNER of 7, Burford Park Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, 30 and DONALD RANDALL MORGAN of 40, Glebe-land Gardens, Shepparton, Middlesex, formerly of 71, Ferndown Road, Solihull, in the County of Warwick, both British Subjects, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to plant display troughs and has as an object provision of a display trough which avoids the necessity for frequent watering of any plants in the trough. This is useful especially when the trough is located in a centrally heated building such as in a theatre foyer, restaurant or the like.

In accordance with this invention, a plant display trough comprises an open water container having an out-turned perimetral flange and a cover plate partially closing the container, the cover plate having a flange complementary to the container flange and seated on the latter, the cover plate being formed with a generally rectangular aperture having two opposite defining walls downwardly inclined towards one another to form shoulders, a plant container seated on the flange of the cover plate so that the plant container is supported with opposite side walls seating on said shoulders, and capillary means between the containers serving to transfer water upwardly to the plant container.

Preferably, a lower portion of the plant container is enclosed by the water container and is provided with a water inlet. A water inlet tube may extend alongside or through the plant container to open in the water container.

The capillary means is conveniently a wick extending through an aperture in the base of the plant container.

In accordance with a further aspect of this invention a plant display trough comprises an open water container having an out-turned perimetral flange and a cover plate partially closing the container, the cover plate having a flange complementary to the container flange and seated on the latter, the cover plate being formed with a generally rectangular aperture having two opposite defining walls downwardly inclined towards one another to form shoulders, a plant container containing one or more plants and heated on the flange of the cover plate so that the plant container is supported with opposite side walls seating on said shoulders and capillary means between the containers serving to transfer water upwardly to the plant container.

One embodiment of the invention is now described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a trough according to the invention; and

Figure 2 is a transverse section of the same planted up for use.

Referring now to the drawings, a plant display trough comprises a lower water container 10 and an upper plant container 11. The lower container comprises a generally rectangular section bowl 12 having an out-turned perimetral flange 13 and a cover plate 14 partially closing the open top of the bowl. The cover plate has a flange 15 which is complementary to the bowl flange and is secured seated thereon, and is provided with a comparatively large generally rectangular aperture having two opposite defining walls 16, 17 downwardly inclined towards one another to form shoulders. The bowl and the cover plate can each be formed from a plastics material, for example polystyrene.

The plant container is of rectangular plan shape, is trough shaped with vertical end walls

[Price 5s. 0d.]

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

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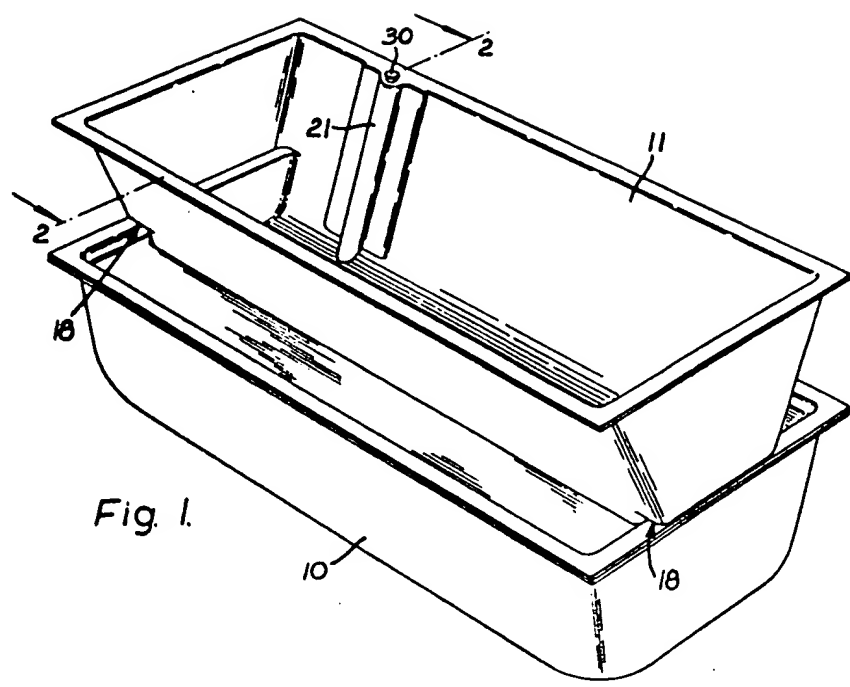


Fig. 1.

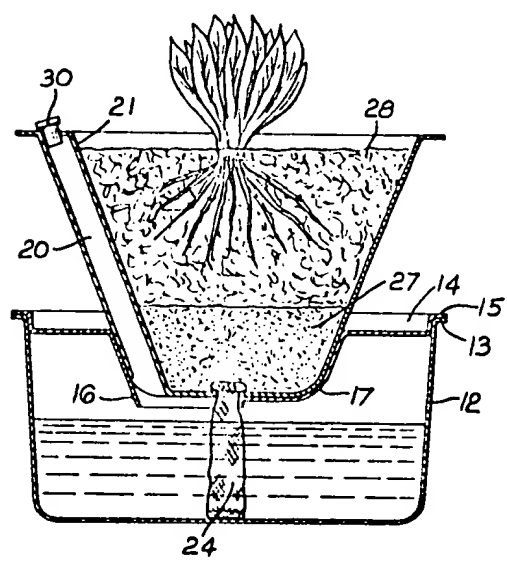


Fig. 2.

and downwardly convergent side walls and the lower part of each end wall is formed with a rebate 18 along the width of the trough. The trough may also be formed from a plastics material and each rebate defines a step in the trough interior. One side wall of the trough has a channel 20 throughout its height which is closed by a plate 21 to refine a tube and at least one hole is formed in the base of the trough. The plate preferably seats in a recess in the trough side-walls.

The trough is received in the generally rectangular aperture of the cover plate with the upper face of each rebate seating on a respective flange of the cover plate and the side walls seating on the shoulders. The trough is preferably adhered to the flange and the shoulders.

A wick 24 preferably made of a rot-proof material such as nylon or glass fibre extends through the hole in the bottom of the plant trough and is spread over the bottom of the lower container.

In use, the trough bottom is covered with a layer of granular material 27, preferably up to the top of the step, which material in turn is covered by a plant-supporting medium 28. The granular material is preferably water-retentive and may be, for example, peat or/ and an expanded vermiculate and the plant-supporting medium may be a John Innes potting component.

Water is added to the water container through the tube formed in the trough side wall to a level be' w the trough bottom and the tube is then plugged at 30. Water is transferred from the water container to the water-retentive granular layer in the plant trough by the wick and is transferred to the plant-supporting medium by capillary action in the granular layer. The latter layer serves to spread water substantially evenly over the bottom of the trough.

Addition of water to the container is required at infrequent intervals, each of perhaps over a month dependent on the types of plants grown in the trough and ambient conditions.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A plant display trough comprising an

open water container having an out-turned perimetral flange and a cover plate partially closing the container, the cover plate having a flange complementary to the container flange and seated on the latter, the cover plate being formed with a generally rectangular aperture having two opposite defining walls downwardly inclined towards one another to form shoulders, a plant container seated on the flange of the cover plate so that the plant container is supported with opposite side walls seating on said shoulders, and capillary means between the containers serving to transfer water upwardly to the plant container.

2. A plant display trough as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a lower portion of the plant container is enclosed by the water container and is provided with a water inlet.

3. A plant display trough as claimed in Claim 2 wherein a water inlet tube extends through the plant container and opens to the water container.

4. A plant display trough comprising an open water container having an out-turned perimetral flange and a cover plate partially closing the container, the cover plate having a flange complementary to the container flange and seated on the latter, the cover plate being formed with a generally rectangular aperture having two opposite defining walls downwardly inclined towards one another to form shoulders, a plant container containing one or more plants and seated on the flange of the cover plate so that the plant container is supported with opposite side walls seating on said shoulders and capillary means between the containers serving to transfer water upwardly to the plant container.

5. A plant display trough substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

Agents for the Applicants
GEORGE FUERY & CO.,
Chartered Patent Agents,
St. Martin's House,
Bull Ring,
Birmingham, 5.